

## Huron River Chain of Lakes Permit Issuance Update

June 22, 2018

Permits! Permits! Permits! I am very pleased to share that the MDEQ has begun issuing permits and has released permits from suspension for the HRCL (Huron River Chain of Lakes) project. Thanks to the efforts of lake association members, resident contacts, Senator Hune and his team, as well as constant dialogue between MDEQ and our team, we have been provided with permits and a permit issuance schedule for the remainder of the outstanding permits. At the end of this update, there is a table provided by the MDEQ which summarizes the permitting status and timeline for the issuance of ANC (Aquatic Nuisance Control) permits for the HRCL project. These permits allow for the use of the products and active ingredients that were originally intended for use to effectively manage the nuisance/invasive algae and plants throughout the HRCL.

The herbicide applicator Aquatic Services and the lake manager Aquest Corp. will be working out a treatment schedule to begin applications as soon as possible. It is well understood that we are approaching the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday period, and with that in mind, treatment schedules will seek to minimize the disturbance of any holiday or weekend festivities. Prior to the commencement of applications, please be on the watch along the shorelines for the posting of **YELLOW** signs, which will indicate the day of treatment, exact pesticides used and the water use restrictions associated with the pesticides used. When the application schedule is finalized, Aquatic Services will update their online scheduling calendar with treatment dates/locations. The online schedule can be found here: <https://www.aquaticservicesinc.info/schedules> Please note that scheduling may change at any time due to weather and/or MDEQ requirements.

To view the locations where treatment and/or harvesting will occur, please visit the HRCL website: <https://www.washtenaw.org/327/Chain-of-Lakes> and click on the "Chain of Lakes Weed Control Activities" link located in the upper left corner of the page. You may also go directly to this location: <https://www.washtenaw.org/799/Chain-of-Lakes-Weed-Control-Activities> Once there, simply scroll down the page and locate the section of the HRCL you are interested in. All of the maps showing treatment or harvesting locations will be found in this location. Once these maps are provided by the Lake Manager, they will be uploaded to the website for viewing. We expect to begin populating the website with treatment maps the week of June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Due to the heavy buildup of algae and plant mass that has occurred since the beginning of this season, the mechanical weed harvester (Huron Lakes Weed Control) has just begun harvesting activities on the HRCL as well. To view the harvesting maps, please visit the "Chain of Lakes Weed Control Activities" link as mentioned above. The current harvesting maps are titled "June 2018 weed harvesting map" under each body of water where harvesting is currently planned. It is believed that harvesting at this point will prove to be beneficial on three fronts. First, harvesting will remove the excessive biomass to prevent additional loss of the available dissolved oxygen (what the fish breathe) from the water which this biomass would consume during decomposition. Second, after removing this biomass in some locations, following up with an aquacide treatment will allow for a more thorough penetration of the treatment with hopefully stronger positive results. Third, harvesting will provide some immediate relief for boat access in areas congested with algae/plant biomass.

We are truly sorry for what the HRCL project residents have been through, and understand that even if all permits are issued, it will still be 2-4 weeks before results are evident in all permitted areas. And we understand you all may still have lingering concerns and trust issues until we see a successful wrap up this year and a "normal" start to applications in 2019.

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Please find below, a table that summarizes the permitting status and timeline for issuance of ANC permits for lakes in the Huron River Chain of Lakes (HRCL) project.

\*USFWS : United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Waterbody	Status	Timeline
<b>Zukey Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ANC Permit has been drafted and is under review by USFWS</li> <li>Issue upon receipt of USFWS response</li> </ul>	Expected 6/22/18
<b>Strawberry Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ANC Permit has been drafted and is under review by USFWS</li> <li>Issue upon receipt of USFWS response</li> </ul>	Expected 6/22/18
<b>Gallagher Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issued</li> </ul>	6/21/18
<b>Loon Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove from suspension</li> </ul>	6/21/18
<b>Whitewood Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove from suspension</li> <li>Draft evaluation of downstream river impact</li> <li>Draft permit for review by USFWS and DNR</li> <li>Issue permit</li> </ul>	Expected 6/29/18 or earlier
<b>Tamarack Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove from suspension</li> <li>Draft evaluation of downstream river impact</li> <li>Draft permit for review by USFWS and DNR</li> <li>Issue permit</li> </ul>	Expected 6/29/18 or earlier
<b>Baseline Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft permit for review by USFWS and DNR</li> <li>Issue permit</li> </ul>	Expected 6/29/18 or earlier
<b>Little Portage Lake</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove from suspension</li> </ul>	6/21/18
<b>Portage Lake Canals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under review by USFWS</li> <li>Issue permit with additional products for canals</li> </ul>	6/22/18